

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

BILL: CS/SB 1458

INTRODUCER: Committee on Education Pre-K – 12; and Senators Wise, Gaetz, and Fasano

SUBJECT: School food service programs

DATE: April 6, 2008

REVISED: 4/8/08

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carrouth	Matthews	ED	Favorable
2.	Ray	Jameson	CF	Fav/1 amendment
3.			HP	
4.			EA	
5.				
6.				

Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Statement of Substantial Changes |
| B. AMENDMENTS..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Technical amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Significant amendments were recommended |

I. Summary:

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1458 encourages the expansion of school district breakfast programs to middle and high schools by the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year and encourages schools, in which 80 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, to provide universal free school breakfasts.

The bill encourages the Department of Education (DOE) to develop, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and school breakfast foundations, a cost-effective incentive model to expand student participation, and requires that information regarding the breakfast program be communicated to students and parents through school announcements and written notices.

This bill substantially amends s. 1006.06, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Current law requires that elementary schools participate in school breakfast programs and, although not required by law, the majority of middle and high schools currently participate in school breakfast programs.¹

Based on information provided by DOE, the majority of local school districts make available information regarding the school breakfast program on their public websites as well as through school newsletters and menus.²

Currently, the Legislature provides \$7,590,912 for elementary school breakfast programs. Student participation in breakfast programs has increased; however, the state supplement appropriation has remained the same.³

Under “universal free breakfast” programs, no student is required to pay; however, the federal reimbursement rate is based on the number of students served who are eligible for free, reduced-price, and paid meals.⁴

In a national pilot project, school breakfast participation almost doubled in the pilot schools within the first year of universal, free breakfast, from 19 percent during the baseline school year to 36 percent. This higher level of participation in pilot school students was maintained in the second year (38 percent) and third year (36 percent) of the pilot period.

During this time, breakfast participation in the control schools increased slightly from the baseline school year, from 19 percent to 21 percent.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill encourages district school boards to expand the school breakfast program to make breakfast available to all students. The bill encourages that beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, school boards expand their school breakfast programs to include elementary, middle, and high school students in schools where 80 percent or more of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

The bill provides that the students in these schools must receive information regarding the school breakfast program on an annual basis.

The bill encourages DOE to work collaboratively with the Department of Agriculture and school breakfast foundations to develop a cost-efficient incentive model to encourage the expansion of student participation in school breakfast programs through the use of existing funding sources.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2008.

¹ Department of Education 2008 Bill Analysis, SB 1458, January 29, 2008 (on file with the committee).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Legislative appropriation for the breakfast supplement is \$7,590,912, currently available only to elementary schools. Because this appropriation is presently used to supplement existing breakfast programs, the department suggests that additional funding may be needed as the program expands.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

Line 54 of the bill makes reference to the Department of Agriculture, which could be interpreted to mean the Florida Department of Agriculture. **(This technical deficiency is corrected in the traveling amendment, Barcode 797980.)**

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Education Pre-K-12 on April 1, 2008:

- Reduces the fiscal impact to the state and local school districts;

- Encourages school districts to provide school breakfast programs for all students K-12 within existing financial resources; and
- Encourages DOE to work with other agencies and organizations to develop a funding model that would encourage across the board participation but within existing state and federal funding levels with no financial impact to districts or the state.

B. Amendments:

Barcode 797980 by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs on April 8, 2008:

Clarifies that DOE is encouraged to develop a cost-efficient incentive model with state and national breakfast advocates and the United States Department of Agriculture.